

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a polyester polymer which comprises heating a polyester polymer (C), which has been obtained by ring-opening polymerization of a polymer (A) having hydroxyl and/or ester bonds and cyclic esters (B) containing  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone, in a solid state to a temperature that is not lower than 115°C and lower than 170°C and is lower than the melting point of the polyester polymer (C) to remove a low-boiling component (v) from the polymer (C) obtained by the polymerization, wherein the heating of the polyester polymer (C) in a solid state is performed by flowing a gas (g) heated to a temperature that is not lower than 115°C and lower than 170°C and is lower than the melting point of the polyester polymer (C)

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a polyester polymer according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein characterized in that the solid state is a powder form, a particle form or a flake form.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a polyester polymer according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein characterized in that the temperature of heating the polyester polymer (C) in a solid state is 120 to 150°C.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a polyester polymer according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~, wherein characterized in that the gas (g) contains 1 to 22 vol% of oxygen.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a polyester polymer according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein characterized in that the polymer (A) is a crystalline aromatic polyester.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a polyester polymer according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein~~ characterized in that the melting point of the polymer (A) is not lower than 150°C.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a polyester polymer according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 2 to 7, wherein~~ characterized in that a gas obtained by removing the low-boiling component (v) from a post-flow gas (g') generated by flowing the gas (g) is reused for the treatment.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a polyester polymer according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein~~ characterized in that the low-boiling component (v) comprises  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone and/or  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone dimer.

10. (Original) A polyester polymer which comprises a polyester polymer (C) obtained by ring-opening polymerization of a polymer (A) having hydroxyl and/or ester bonds and cyclic esters (B) containing  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone, wherein concentrations of  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone and  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone dimer contained in the polyester polymer (C) are each not higher than 450 ppm.

11. (Original) A polyester polymer according to claim 10, wherein the concentrations of  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone and  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone dimer are each not higher than 100 ppm.